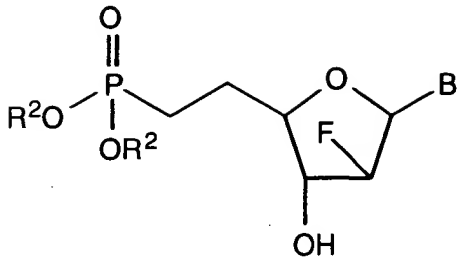

wherein:

B is adenosine, N^6-benzoyladenine, thymine, guanine, [2,6-diaminopurine] or N^2-isobutyrylguanine; and

each R^2 is independently hydrogen, phenyl, alkyl (1-12C) or hydrogentriethylammonium ion.

Please cancel claims 53-54, 57 and 62-67 without prejudice.

Remarks

After the Office enters the amendments, claims 51-56, 58-61 will be pending. Applicants have canceled claims that recited the 5'-methylenephosphonate derivatives of 2'-deoxycytosine and 2'-deoxyguanosine and their synthetic intermediates in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,736,314 and German Patent No. DE 2009 834 (of record) and U.S. Patent Nos. 3,878,194 and 3,662,031 (both newly cited), see, e.g., example 38 at p 52-53 of DE 2009 834.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Office objected to the specification and rejected claims 51-67 as allegedly not enabled. The Office asserted at page 2 of the Office action that the Declaration Applicants submitted in the response mailed on May 15, 1996, (Declaration) provided evidence that 5'-methylene phosphonate analogs of guanine nucleosides possessed antiviral activity. The Office stated that claims reciting nucleotide analogs where the base is guanine or N^2-isobutyrylguanine and each R^2 is hydrogen would be allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection for, *inter alia*, the following reasons.